

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

Vol. V.]

General Summary of News.

[No. 211.]

ASIA.

Persian Gulph.—It will be seen from the General Orders of the Bombay Government, inserted in our present Number, that the Expedition for the Persian Gulph is at length assembling, and that it will sail from Bombay on its destination, on the setting in of the N. E. or fair weather monsoon.

Our private sources of intelligence have enabled us from time to time to lay before our readers various particulars on this subject; and in the last Bombay Courier received, we find a confirmation of our statement regarding Captain Sadlier, as given on the authority of Letters from Bushire, a few days since. The paragraphs in that Paper are as follow:—

"On Thursday, the 16th of September, H. M. sloop of war Curlew, Captain Walpole, from Bushire the 2d of September, and Muscat the 9th of September, anchored in this harbour. By this vessel we understand that letters have been received from Captain Sadlier, of H. M. 47th Regiment, who was some months since deputed by the Supreme Government to the camp of Ibrahim Pasha, commanding the Turkish troops, which had subdued the Wahabee power in Arabia, and occupied the tract of country bordering on the Persian Gulph.

Captain Sadlier landed at the port of Khatief, which he found in the possession of the Arab Sheikhs, on the 11th of July, and after very considerable difficulties arrived at Ul Ahsa, under the escort of a Bedouin Sheikh, whose protection seemed of a very auspicious nature. Captain Sadlier was to proceed forward on the 22d of July to join the Pasha's camp, which was said to be at the distance of 10 or 12 days' march from Ul Ahsa.

The Pasha seems to be withdrawing the whole of his forces from the shores of the Persian Gulph, either finding himself not powerful enough to retain his conquests, or that their possession was not worth the expence. The whole of Deryah, lately a populous city, had been razed to the ground. The country through which Captain Sadlier passed, is stated to be an entire desert inhabited by the wildest race of Bedouins. Contests between the different tribes were frequently occurring even in view of his tents, attended with much slaughter.

The hot weather in the Persian Gulph is represented to have been much more intense than has been known for many years.

The Imam of Muscat was blockading the port of Ras ul Khyma; against which a considerable body of his troops had advanced by land."

The Dawk of yesterday brought us, via Bombay, other Letters from the Gulph, dated as late as August 25th, 1819, and these convey the following additional particulars.

The heat throughout this sea had been greater than within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, and both Arabs and Persians have sunk under its influence as much as Europeans. On board several of the ships of war, sailors had dropped down senseless from the intense power of the sun; three of these had expired almost instantly, and the others slowly recovered.

Captain Sadlier left the port of Lahsa, as it is usually written, or perhaps more correctly Ul-Ahsa, on the 22d of July, to join Ibrahim Pasha, who, as we before stated, had retired across the Desert, to Tayef, a cool, elevated, and fertile station, near Mecca. Captain Sadlier's escort was composed of the last remaining portion of the Turkish troops and officers, with their Bedouin guides, without which they would be as destitute, and as bewildered, as men ignorant of navigation abandoned to their own resources in the open sea, so trackless are the central deserts through which they would have to pass.

Our Correspondent assures us, that the Turkish power is at an end in the Nedjed, or north-eastern portion of Arabia. The Pasha of Egypt, has at length discovered that he could not retain the country without maintaining a much larger force for that purpose than the revenue of the Desert would pay. Before his retreat, however, for so it must be called, he has destroyed the principal town and post of the interior, *Derriyah*, the centre of the Wahabee power, from which the doctrines of that sect first sprung, under their revered leader, Abd-ul-Wahab.

The last chief, Abdullah ben Saood, was, as our readers will remember, taken prisoner, and led to Constantinople in chains, where, according to some accounts he was beheaded, according to others strangled, but according to all certainty, put to death. The faint shadow of power that remained after his death, has been completely destroyed, by the Expedition of the Egyptian Pasha's son; but the Arabs have not yet been, nor are they ever likely to be, either subdued or conquered, in the sense in which conquest is generally understood, that is, to be held in subsequent subjection.

Ibrahim has restored the authority of the Beni Khaled Sheikhs, which the Wahabees had overthrown; and on reinstating them in their former rank has obliged them to swear allegiance to the Turkish power, and to enter into engagements for the payment of a fixed tribute, neither of which, as our Friend judiciously observes, will they be found to perform.

The Turks have thus abandoned their conquests on the eastern shores of Arabia, as well as in the interior, and have very prudently confined themselves to the possession of the great western ports, from Suez to Bab-el-Mandeb, in the Red Sea, with Medina, Mecca, Tayef, and the large towns in Arabia Felix, near the coast, all capable of maintaining their garrisons, and yielding a surplus revenue.

Under this aspect of affairs, our Correspondent adds, we shall probably soon see the central Deserts of Arabia in a greater state of turbulence than ever, as the tribes have now no common head, each holding itself in subjection to its own peculiar Sheikh; whereas, during the existence of the Wahabee power, they were all united under one Chief, both as to religion and civil government. It is to be hoped, therefore, he continues, that the promised Expedition to Ras-ul-Khyma will not longer be delayed, as no doubt large numbers of those roving and disbanded Arabs will resort to the ports on the sea coasts, to try their fortune in a way that is quite congenial to their habits, namely robbery and plunder; some have indeed already appeared from the interior, to enter on board the Pirate boats at Ras-ul-Khyma, where they may hope to accomplish in a short cruise what all the watching and marching of the Desert could never give them, and return to their tents with such plunder as the fortune of war might throw in their way, unless the speedy appearance of an Expedition from Bombay should cut off their hopes, and nip their prospects in the bud, a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Red Sea.—We observe in a late English Paper, the Hampshire Telegraph of the 17th of May, that a gentleman at Liverpool, is said to have received a Letter from his brother at Jedda, stating that he had met at that port, with Mr. Pearce, the person left by Mr. Salt in Abyssinia, whose history will be familiar to all who have read the Travels of Lord Valentia, in which, among other things is a Drawing of Pearce in his Abyssinian dress. The writer adds that Pearce assured him of Mungo Park's being still alive, and detained by the King at Tumbuctoo, on account of his superior medical knowledge.

The statement of white men being seen in different parts of the interior of Africa, is a common thing to be met with at Jedda, from the negroes who accompany the great western caravans to Mecca; but when it is considered, that an Arab of Morocco, or Barbary, or Egypt, all of which go into the interior in great numbers, is considered by the negroes to be as much a white man, as an European is, it will be easily imagined how vague and groundless any hope must be which is founded on the bare assertion of a white man being in confinement in any of the cities in the interior of Africa, and these common and frequent assertions, seldom amount to more.

For ourselves, we think that the grounds on which the death of this lamented Traveller rests, are far too satisfactory to admit of further hope of his existence; and until something strongly calculated to revive that hope, by invalidating the truth of the statements already before the world, shall occur, we think it worse than idle to indulge rumours which are calculated to give pain to many, and pleasure to none, and which we have now only noticed in order to show their general fallacy, and to deprecate them as unworthy of attention or credit.

Among other articles of general intelligence from Egypt, we notice that the manufacture of gunpowder has been brought to great perfection there, by an Italian chemist, Signor Giovanni Bassi, who visited Egypt about the year 1815, and was employed by the Pasha on various works in which his peculiar knowledge was likely to be of service. It is said that from the scarcity of fuel opposing obstacles to his manufacturing the article to so great an extent as was required, he had conceived the idea of profiting by the heat of the climate, to effect a slower process of evaporation, and that he had already prepared 30,000 lbs. of salt petre in this manner, from which gunpowder had been made of a superior quality to that produced by the ordinary process.

The enterprising character of this Albanian Soldier, who furnishes his arsenal with ordnance from the foundries of Sweden; with naval stores from the dock-yards of Russia and England; with ships from the ports of India; and with gunpowder, sail cloth, and other useful supplies, from his own dominions; promises, if his life be prolonged, and his energies continued, to effect a complete revolution in the Turkish empire, and to become himself the master of as large a territory, and certainly a better governed one than the present Sultan of Islamboul, whom he even now disdains to call his master, and of whom he is in every respect, but that of an empty title, entirely independent.

The Letters which have reached us from the Red Sea, via Bombay, corroborate many of the general facts stated in those received through the same channel from the Persian Gulf, as to the progress of the Turkish power along the western shores of Arabia, and their probable abandonment of it on the east, as incapable of being maintained but by a greater force than the revenues of the whole country would support.

It appears that Mohamed Ali Pasha, tempted by the large revenues which his conquest of Mecca had given him, from the immense traffic carried on there at the annual fairs of the pilgrimage, and benefiting also in a proportionate degree by the duties levied on foreign commerce, for which the port of Jedda was the great depot, could not rest satisfied with making the Hedjaz, or the holy land, the boundary of his dominion. He progressively moved his troops southward, and took possession of Gonfudda, Camaran, Loheia, and Hodeida, as well as the whole of the Coffee country of the Yemen in this neighbourhood, and at length moved on to Mokha, which was long thought to be beyond his reach.

A gentleman recently arrived here from the Red Sea, assures us that the Turkish power is not only acknowledged at Mokha, but that the officers of Government there in July were Turkish, and that the garrison was wholly composed of the troops of Egypt. We have seen a paragraph in the Bombay Courier of the 11th of September, which states that accounts brought from thence up to the middle of August, spoke of the intended return of the troops to Egypt, to the great joy of the Arabs, who had suffered considerably by the visit of their invaders. The nominal government it is said, was vested in the Imam of Sena, on condition of his paying an annual tribute to the Pasha of 100,000 Dollars; but it might be added here, as well as at the end of our Persian Letters, that unless a force was absolutely maintained in the country, to guarantee or secure the fulfilment of this engagement, nothing short of a second visit from the Pasha, would ever ensure its being observed, not even for the first year after his departure.

If the Pasha of Egypt would confine himself to the possession of the sea coast, as the Dutch and Portuguese wisely did at Ceylon, he might derive all the benefits arising from the commerce of Arabia, which is the only source of revenue it possesses, and maintain these at a trifling expense and little risk of loss, while they would yield him enormous gains. In this way, he might easily extend the line of his conquests from Mokha to Aden, the ancient emporium of the trade between Europe and India, from thence to Maculla, Shahr, Dofar, and round to Muscat, after which the capture of Ras-ul-Khyma, Balaia, Lahsa, El Katif, Grain, or Korte, and all the intermediate ports of eastern Arabia, would be perfectly easy, till at length he might enter the joint stream of the Tigris and Euphrates triumphantly, and fix his standard at Bussorah on the East, at Cairo on the West, and at Aden on the South, and restore three of the greatest commercial cities of the east to that splendour to which a free commerce alone once elevated them, and which despotism and monopoly combined, have reduced to their present state of comparative insignificance; retaining, it is true, some noble vestiges of their former grandeur, but associated with so much of a contrary character, as to make the contrast melancholy and humiliating to all who are called to witness it.

The conquest of the interior of Arabia, is, however, a more arduous task, and, may perhaps, without arrogance, be said to be impossible. Our own opinion, unsupported by others, would perhaps be little regarded in making so bold an assertion, the local experience must be admitted to give some qualification for forming an estimate of the character and resources of a people, however much such a pretension be despised; but on this head, we may quote the opinion of an eloquent historian, whose learning and sagacity, and whose superior acquaintance with all the varied subjects of which he treated, whatever difference of opinion may prevail with regard to his style or his tenets, few will have the hardihood to deny.

"The arms of Sesostris and Cyrus, of Pompey and Trojan," says this historian, "could never achieve the conquest of Arabia. The reigning Sultan of the Turks may exercise a show of power over them; but his pride is reduced to solicit the friendship of a people whom it is dangerous to provoke and fruitless to attack. The obvious causes of their freedom are inscribed both on their character and on their country. The patient and active virtues of a soldier are insensibly nursed in the habits and discipline of a pastoral life. The long memory of their independence is the firmest pledge of its perpetuity, and succeeding generations are animated to prove their descent and to maintain their inheritance. When they advance to battle, the hope of victory is in their front, and in their rear the assurance of a retreat. Their horses and camels, who in eight or ten days can perform a march of four or five hundred miles, disappear before the conqueror, the secret waters of the Desert elude his search, and his victorious troops are consumed with hunger, thirst, and fatigue in the pursuit of an invisible foe who scorns his efforts, and safely reposes in the heart of the burning solitudes."—GIBBON.

Such has been the character and resources of this ancient, singular, and interesting people, from the earliest periods of their history, and such it is actually found to be at the present moment; nor can the result of any warfare with them by land, be otherwise than ruinous.

Bombay.—The Bombay Gazette last received, contains the following paragraph:—

Unrutter, Sept. 1.—We have had a very severe visitation of the Cholera, in this quarter during the heavy rains, and winds from the S. W.; but it is rather remarkable, that when the wind comes round, and blows from the N. W. and Northerly, there appear few or no cases during those days; and latterly we have only had perhaps one or two cases in the week, and are in hopes the weather will clear up, as we have a respite of rain since the 28th; however, the grain merchants and marwaries are glad of an excuse to raise the price of wheat, rice, and jowarrie. The farmers will have it, the growing crops are spoiled, so between them, I think numbers of poor people may starve.

Bombay.—We are concerned to hear, that many cases of the Cholera have occurred on board some of the ships in the harbour; we can scarce offer an opinion as to the visitation of particular ships, but cannot refrain from remarking, that the appearance of this disease is often traced to some local disarrangement of the system.

Madras.—The Madras Gazette of the 25th of September, which reached by yesterday's *Dawk*, furnishes chiefly Shipping Intelligence and Domestic Occurrences which will be found in their usual columns. The following intelligence may have interest enough for some of our readers to deserve republication.

The Drawing of the Madras Lottery continued on Friday and terminated on Tuesday the 21st September. The following Prizes exceeding 250 Rupees were drawn.

FRIDAY.—No. 2306, a Prize of 10,000 Rupees. Nos. 4035, 2305, 3980, 2897, Prizes of 1000 Rupees each. Nos. 4998, 2770, 1469, 3753, 4279, Prizes of 500 Rupees each.

TUESDAY.—No. 5264, a Prize of 10,000 Rupees. Nos. 866, 982, 1610, 1724, 2784, 3919, 4950, 4727, 4911, and 5282, Prizes of 500 Rupees each.

Ceylon.—The following is an Extract of a Letter, dated Kandy, August, 1819:—"Such is the nature of the service we are on, and the country we are in, that nothing can be worse; and what with sickness, miserable marching, and continual harassment, our situation is wretched indeed.

You, who have been used to obey the call of duty in defence of your country whenever required, may probably form some idea of it; but for one who has never filled the profession of war, it is impossible:—the latter may suppose that where there is no fighting, there is no hardship; but the former, to whom enterprise is delight, and opportunity a blessing, is aware that fatigue, scarcity, and sickness, are the most formidable of all enemies.

We arrived here after a fortnight's marching on foot, over mountains where no horse could be used, subject to incessant rain, the roads crowded with sick, and where no provisions could be obtained, save now and then a miserable fowl, coconuts, and rice: as for a good piece of meat or even bread they are luxuries rarely to be met with, and in many situations not to be obtained at any time or expense; and several of the Stations are so remote from Colombo, the principal and almost only mart for provisions, that the cost of carriage by coolies renders it impracticable to obtain them; in consequence of which we are compelled to live or rather exist upon our rations, consisting of two drams of arrack and one pound of little better than carrion beef per diem. Indeed such is the barrenness of the Kandian Provinces, that the occupation of them must entail a heavy expence on our Government—the Revenues must be very trifling, all the Hills being covered with thick jungle, the valleys small, swampy, and only calculated for the cultivation of paddy. The Kandians universally dislike our Government, and the only foundation for our boasted conquest of the country consists in our having established the means of free ingress and regress through it, in consequence of our possessing lines of fortified posts on the tops of hills in various directions, at each of which a standing and active Military force is compelled to be maintained at an immense expence, for the occupation of a territory which is a Grave to Europeans.

We are yet in the dark as to the probable time when we shall embark for what we now term the Land of Luxury.

Sultanpore.—Letters from Sultanpore, dated 20th September, represent the country thereabout as visited by great distress in consequence of the failure of the crops for want of rain. Thieves were swarming, to the great annoyance of travellers, and could be held at bay but by English Sepoys, not by mere Chokeedars.

Whether through the encomiastic strains of our cotemporaries, or more probably through report from the hundred or rather millions of mouths of the Bengalee Goddess Fame; the vocal abilities of Nikkhun have reached the ears of an Indian Prince, who has sent for her with a promise of a salary of 1000 rupees per month; and the sweet notes which charmed the amateurs of the Settlement will now resound on the most distant bank of the Bhagiratty.

Mow.—A letter from Mow, dated the 17th Sept. states, that up to that period, the rains had continued; and that some of the crops in the vicinity had been injured by the quantity of rain which had then fallen. Accounts from the Deccan state, that the damage occasioned to the grain had been very considerable; but according to the latest intelligence received at Mow from the Deccan, the rains had ceased in that quarter. Letters received from General Doveton's Camp, state, that a great scarcity of grain, had rendered the condition of the poorer kind of camp-followers truly deplorable. The European Officers had very generally subscribed considerable sums for the relief of the sufferers, but the accounts which we have received of the conduct of General Doveton on this occasion, are deserving of every possible publicity, and must excite general admiration. The General, we understand, not only subscribed one thousand rupees to the fund which was formed by the contributions, to which we have alluded,—but caused extensive purchases of grain to be made, at his own expence, in quarters, which, although not very distant from the Camp, were, for the time, beyond the reach of the common people. The grain thus procured, was distributed daily at the rate of half a seer per person, to a number exceeding 12,000; and one of our letters mentions 14,000. The relief which was thus afforded to the famishing camp-followers, need only to be stated to be appreciated; and the conduct of the General on this occasion, affords a noble contrast to the acts of others, whose names have been recorded,—and some of whom, contrived to carry to Europe, large fortunes which were realized by the purchase and sale of grain, during the pressure of a similar calamity.—[Ind. Gaz.

Berhampore.—The following is an extract of a Letter, which has reached us from this station, dated October 6, 1819:

Since my last, we have had a continuance of rainy weather; and the natives begin to complain of having too much.

The river rose so rapidly during the latter end of last month, that some of the embankments gave way. A breach was made in one of the villages of Kojrah, which did considerable damage in the neighbourhood. An upper-roomed house, erected by a native on the banks of the river, came down; and the Silk Filature of an opulent Armenian of the name of Manahackeen, was materially injured.

Apprehensions were entertained of the waters coming into cantonments, but the prompt exertions of Colonel Parby of the Engineers, in charge of the embankments, arrested its progress.

The detachment of His Majesty's 59th foot, lately returned from Ceylon, have been very sickly since their arrival in this station; it has lost some men, and numbers are in the hospital.

Theatricals.—We observe with pleasure that the "Classic Drama to reform the Stage," has not been called for in vain, and the chain of Farces is to be interrupted by the representation on Friday evening, of Dr. Young's celebrated Tragedy of *The Revenge*. The part of Zanga, is, we hear, in the hands of the Amateur who displayed such Dramatic powers in the character of Sir Giles Over-reach, in *A New Way to pay Old Debts*; and tho' to say this, is sufficient to excite high expectations, yet we feel safe in premising that high as they may be, they will most assuredly not be disappointed.

Music.—Mr. and Mrs. Lacy have at length announced their intention of gratifying the Musical world by a Set of Vocal and Instrumental Concerts for the winter, to commence on the 1st of November next, under the distinguished Patronage of the Most Noble the Marquis and Marchioness of Hastings.

Our sentiments have so frequently been expressed, as to the strong claims which Mr. and Mrs. Lacy must possess on the Society of India, by the important sacrifices through which alone they could reach this country, and which our readers will readily remember to have been urged by us often, before their arrival, that it is no longer necessary for us to say more on that head. Their professional talents are undoubted, and the Patronage of the highest circles has been so well secured, that we have the fullest confidence in their Concerts being more numerous attended than any public fashionable Assemblies, have ever been before, and that they will form by far the chief attraction of the approaching season of gaiety and pleasure.

AFRICA.

Cape Town.—The accounts from Graham's Town reach to the 20th of June, up to which period the Caffers continued quiet. The transports with the remainder of the 38th and 54th Detachments arrived at Algoa Bay on the 17th, where the greatest exertions were immediately made for landing the ammunition and stores, in order to their proceeding to join Lieut. Col. Willshire, without loss of time; 120 waggons have been employed on this occasion. As soon as this convoy reaches Graham's Town, the assistance intended for the frontier will be completed. The Commandos from all the districts (Tulbagh excepted) are over complete; we believe the last division from Tulbagh to be on its road, but the operations of the frontier will not be delayed for this tardy detachment. The last division of the horses for the remount arrived in the Lang Kloof on the morning of the 23rd, in good order. A strong detachment of the 54th Regt. has been left at the town of Uitenhage for its protection.

From communications which have been had with the Caffers' people from Caffer Drift, it seems that the Chiefs expect to be attacked, and that they have a force in readiness to enter the colony, as soon as they shall have ascertained, that our troops have moved; upon a rumour to that effect, they lately threw forward several detached parties, which retired upon finding their information to have been incorrect.

Accounts from the Orange River state, that some Corannas had arrived there from Malipietje, with information, that Cocraad Buys, his wife, children, slaves, and the people, had been all murdered by the Boerspoollans. He was moving to the eastward, and it is believed, that he was way-laid and destroyed by order of the Chief Matibie. The account comes from the Red Caffers; but although it has been repeated through several channels, it appears to require confirmation.

Pindarry War.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

I read with feelings of indescribable satisfaction, a Letter in your Journal of this morning, regarding Colonel Adams's name not having been mentioned in the Parliamentary Vote of Thanks to the Indian Army; and as the writer (whoever he be) anticipated me in performing that duty (for to an Officer of that Division it is a duty) so I am happy to find that it was undertaken by one so well able to do it justice.

Sir, in case of this nature, comparisons cease to be invidious, which it is uncalculated for would certainly have that appearance; and I therefore hesitate not to say that the Division commanded by Colonel Adams, during the late war, performed more signal and solidly beneficial, more extended, arduous, and important services to the state, than any other Division whatever; and I trust the time is not far distant, when detailed proofs of the correctness of this assertion will be given to the Public, drawn from the most unexceptionable sources of information.

It is not, Sir, Colonel Adams alone, who is injured by the unmerited exclusion of which I speak, but the whole of his brave, zealous, and enduring Division has cause to complain of this unexpected exception; and the promulgation of those Thanks at the Head of the several Corps will cause painful sensations to arise in the breast of the gallant Native Troops of the 5th Division, who know nothing of the foolish etiquette which prevents a brave and truly deserving old Officer from receiving the Thanks of his Country in common with others, none of whom better deserve the honor, and few so well.

Conscious as Colonel Adams is—must be—of the beneficial results which sprung from his actions in the late war, and which called forth repeatedly the warmest eulogiums, and the most unqualified applause, in public, demi public, and private shapes, from the Most Noble the Commander in Chief, whose knowledge in such matters is too sound and extensive to admit of his falling into error, and whose honor is too high to allow of his bestowing praise undeserved; to Colonel Adams, I say, the promulgation of those Thanks must give that degree of pain of which every brave and honorable Officer could not but be deeply sensible on such an occasion.

The extermination of the Pindarries, that primary cause of the war, was owing almost entirely to the exertions of the 5th Division under the personal command of this distinguished Officer, who, along with it, experienced more toil and privation than fell to the lot of any other Commander; and did, I repeat, more good to the general cause than any other single Division of either Army. The voluntary surrender of Bajee Rao was the immediate effect, solely of his defeat by Colonel Adams, with about 1,200 men, on the 17th of April last year; by which his Army, which on that day could not have amounted to less than 30,000 men, was so reduced and dispersed, that on surrendering himself to Sir John Malcolm, the Ex-Peishwah was not, I believe, accompanied by more than 5,000! He never sustained any defeat after that day, nor any complete one before it; and had it not been for the consummate wisdom evinced by Mr. Jenkins in calling Colonel Adams to that quarter, I hesitate not to say that the Ex-Peishwah would in all probability have till this day been at the head of an imposing Force, and in conjunction with the Ex-Rajah of Berar.

Colonel Adams was himself guilty, I may say, of injustice to the handful of men who defeated that immense and imposing Army, on the 17th of April; for he sent in so very modest an account, that Lord Hastings himself subsequently declared that he was not fully aware of its brilliancy, and beneficial and decisive consequences, till a considerable time after it occurred, when facts began to speak for themselves, and when the greatness of the cause became apparent from the magnitude of the effect.

The speedy capture of the strongly fortified city of Chandah, was at that time a most desirable object; and Colonel Adams effected it in about eight days, with means (from necessity) less adequate than what were at the command of any other Leader of a Division then in the Field; and this happened too at a time when his troops were almost worn out by the incessant labours they had undergone in all seasons, for more than two years before.

The Resident at Nagpore, and the illustrious head of our Local Government, well knew how to appreciate Colonel Adams's services, and from the beginning, he received as great praise, and most justly, as was ever bestowed on any Officer; but he was denied his Country's Thanks, because, (is it possible?) he was not a Brigadier General! Would not a service, then, of forty years unbroken continuance be allowed to weigh in the opposite scale to that of a Rank which *per se* is insufficient to call down honors on the head of its possessor? Was the voice of his former services silenced, because it happened not to tell the deeds of a General Officer? Was the opinion of Lord Hastings of no avail, merely because it could not usher in the name of Adams by the prefix of Brigadier General? Ridiculous as the thing would have doubtless appeared, it would really have been more consonant to justice than the present silence (which from being unexplained, people may construe as they please) if the Vote of Thanks had been wound up by the following notice, or something of a similar nature.

"That this House is fully sensible of the great and eminent services of the 5th Division of the Army of the Dukhin, and that it recognizes them among the most decisive and truly beneficial of all that were performed in the course of the late war. It is also sensible, that the gallantry shown on many occasions by every part of that Division, and the fatigues and privations cheerfully borne by it, are well worthy of this House's most cordial thanks and approbation; but we regret that the (olebeian) rank of its Commander renders altogether out of the question the Thanks of this House being bestowed upon him, without breaking through all sort of propriety and decorum, and even making a breach in the dignity of this House, through which its privileges may one day be stormed by Field Officers and Subalterns, as dashingly and successfully as was the well-defended city of Chandah by the aforesaid Division; or with as decisive effect as was the charge made by Lieutenant Colonel Adams at the head of two weak and worn out squadrons of the 5th Regiment Bengal Cavalry, on more than 25,000 Mah-ratta Horse and Foot, on the 17th April, 1818."

Something of the above nature, Sir, should, in justice to the Division, have been made the concluding paragraph of the Vote of Thanks, by way of showing those concerned that it was not without the most weighty and urgent reason, that the Legislature thought proper to exclude them from a due share of that praise so deservedly bestowed on their brethren; and that if ever they should be so fortunate as to be commanded by Major General Adams, they would have the satisfaction of seeing their names forming a prominent feature of the Vote of Thanks which would be passed at some future period.

Calcutta, 12th October, 1819.

A SOLDIER.

Indian Army.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Let me say a word to the Gentleman of the Old School, who writes on the subject of Brevet Rank, and deprecates its introduction into the Indian Army.

It is extremely natural that Gentleman who have passed through the Service without having such stimulants to excite them, should think it rather unfair that an opportunity should be given to Young Officers to get the start of them in the Career of Glory and Fortune, now that their energies and period of service are nearly at an end. But if its general benefit to the Army, to the Company, and to Great Britain, should, on a full and dispassionate inquiry, be admitted, as I think, it will be, some means might be fallen on to compensate the elderly Gentleman for this *ruse de guerre*, which they might say has been played upon them by the Younger. The Rule might be made to commence from a fixed period prospectively, or it might include only those of a certain standing, until time should cause it to be general.

It is truly lamentable to see so many fine young spirits pent up, as it were, without the least hope of distinguishing themselves; languishing and pining away in despair. The Brevet Promotion by Merit would infuse a life and soul into the Army, unknown to it, respectable as it is.

I recollect my Uncle (an Old Officer of the Company) telling me, that when he was at the Siege and Capture of Samul Cota, in Cooch Behar, Captain Jones, who commanded, had occasion to report the surrender of the place officially to Government; but being a person more accustomed to the use of his sword than his pen, he requested Ensign Knowles, who he knew could write, to do for him, as he said, the needful. The account was accordingly drawn up, and given to Captain Jones, who having approved, signed and returned it to Knowles for transmission. The latter possessing an ardent mind, and being indeed one who in the present day would be termed an uncommonly fine young man, took the opportunity to add in a P. S. "I cannot sufficiently commend the gallantry, zeal, and devotion of Ensign Knowles, whose services on this occasion, as indeed on all others, have been most conspicuous and important," folded up the Letter and dispatched it.

Now, although some few fastidious people may condemn this conduct in a moral point of view, it is obvious that he must have possessed many, if not all the requisites of a General, viz. judgement, caution, foresight, promptitude, &c. and there can be no reason to doubt that if the Rule of Promotion by Merit had existed at that time, he would have stood prominent on the list, either by the order of this Government, or from home, when his name should appear in the London Gazette.

I mention this little anecdote, and could add many others, merely to shew how much the Army loses by having the genius of the younger officers cramped by a slow and gradual system of promotion.

I am aware that much stress is laid on the opinion of the Most Noble the Marquis Cornwallis, who in his letter of the 1st of January, 1795, to the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, First Commissioner for India Affairs, says, that "the (India) Officers, whose services are unalterably fixed in so distant a quarter of the globe, ought to be protected by established Regulations, against the hazard of suffering by the abuse of patronage from any Commander in Chief!"

But let me remind these Gentlemen, that the Most Noble Marquis was at that very time endeavouring to transfer the whole of the Bengal Army, to the service of His Majesty, and thus to confer on them the benefits of Brevet Promotion. But independent of this, men of the first talents, have not scrupled to question His Lordship's political sagacity, especially since the Convention of Seringapatam and the Peace of Amiens.

Calcutta, Oct. 10, 1819.

CANDIDE.

Court Martial at Fort St. George.

Restat, Judices, ut hoc dubitemus. CICERO.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

In your Journal of the 8th instant, you have published extracts from the confirmed Proceedings of a General Court Martial, held in Fort St. George, by virtue of a Warrant from His Excellency, General Sir T. Hislop, Bart. G. C. B. for the Trial of Surgeon Davis, of the 18th M. N. I.

The discussions regarding Courts Martial, to which you lately gave publication in your most useful and independent Journal, have had the effect of making me (in common, I believe, with many other Officers) pay more than usual attention to every document in the least likely to give me new or more correct information on any points connected with Military Law; and in the course of such a scrutiny, palpable errors will necessarily be discovered (where they exist) as well as points of difficulty or doubtful legality.

The Sentence of the above Court presents a mistake in terms, and I conceive in substance also, which I shall beg leave to point out to your Military readers, as a warning mark, by which they may avoid falling into a similar error; and one which, in my mind, and strictly speaking, may even

have the effect of rendering a Sentence null and void, inasmuch as it is pronounced in conformity with a Law, framed for the better Government of other Forces than those of the Honorable Company.

The words of the Sentence (or Finding rather) are, "that by virtue of the Rules and Articles established for the better Government of all His Majesty's Forces, the Court do most fully and honorably acquit the Prisoner." The Articles of War, Sir, enact that at all Courts Martial for the Trial of an Officer or Soldier in the East India Company's Service, regard shall be paid to an Act entitled "An Act for the better Government of the Forces in the Service of the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies"; and every Member of such Court Martial is sworn to conduct himself thereat agreeably to those articles.

If a King's Court Martial found and sentenced by virtue of the Rules and Articles of War, established for the better Government of the Honorable Company's Troops, their Proceedings would be illegal, and would not be confirmed; and on precisely the same principle I leave it to your experienced Military Readers (particularly your late Correspondents) to say how far I am right or otherwise in doubting of the strict legality (and consequently the efficiency) of the Verdict pronounced upon the Charges exhibited against Mr. Surgeon Davis.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Calcutta, October 12, 1819.

Q.

Note by the Editor.

We have given publicity to the doubts of Q—but have it in our power to state for his information, that the question has been referred to the chief Law Authorities both here and in England, and it has been determined that Officers bearing Commissions from the Crown, though in the Company's Service, can be tried by no other than the Annual Mutiny Act, for the better government of His Majesty's Forces; so that the question is set at rest, and after this explanation, there will be no field for controversy on a "Ruled Case."

Plain Reasoning.

"Egone has indignitates diutius patiar quam necesse est? Thomam episcopo pum qui non tulerim, Ploudenum feram? Secedat nunc, advocet plebem."

Speech of CORIOLANUS. Liv. Hist. II. 34.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

On the 22d of September, the three lay members of the present Vestry, claiming to be "considered to act with the consent of the Inhabitants," and having no other title whatever to the exercise of such functions, were impressively assured, by a vast majority of the Inhabitants, that they were acting against their consent, and that they were Usurpers. This last term was not used with the least degree of rhetorical exaggeration, in a disclamatory way, or in the heat of debate, but as in the strictest sense applicable to the situation in which the three Gentlemen had placed themselves.

Notwithstanding the decisive result of the Proceedings of the 22d of September, as contained in the series of Resolutions adopted, in ascertaining "that general opinion" which "is the vehicle and organ of legislative Omnipotence," the friends of the Usurpers (a little discordant knot*) have exerted themselves more to criticise and cavil at those Resolutions, than they previously did to prevent their passing; presuming that the local Government will make little account of the wishes of the Inhabitants in favour of an arrangement undeniably just and reasonable, and conformable to, or rather necessarily prescribed by, principles which themselves confess to be indisputable; and that those who were victors in the field may yet be vanquished in the cabinet.

Emboldened by this unworthy hope, and undeterred by the fate of Julius, CORIOLANUS proclaims himself the enemy of his fellow-citizens. If he expects that we shall send any deputations of men or women to deprecate his hostility, he has much over-rated the terror he inspires. In the front of his Manifesto, the following motto is emblazoned: "We have power in ourselves to do it, but it is a power that we have no power to do;" which, being interpreted, may mean three different things, though no doubt all pointing to the same conclusion, viz.

1. We the Usurpers have for a considerable time had power to maintain our places, but it is a power without any substance or colour of right. Or
2. We the Government have power to depose the Usurpers, but it is a power which (*μη γένοτο*) we have no inclination to exercise. Or
3. We the Electors have rights and franchises, but we have no power to enforce respect to them.

The whole case for the Usurpers rests on two allegations. First. They say that the Charter of 1787 is invalid: Secondly. That they are acting in obedience to Government.

* The Editor of the Government Gazette is "much amused" at being identified with the scribes for this party. He thinks it highly entertaining that he should be imagined to advocate their cause. Of course he will not spoil so good a joke by republishing PUNICOLA or SENEX, or any other antidote to the poison he disseminates every week.

I. With respect to the invalidity of the Charter, they contend that it did not proceed from a competent authority, Lord Cornwallis being present at the Select Vestry in his private capacity. Now I contend that, admitting Lord Cornwallis to have been present in his private capacity, the Constitution which emanated from that Meeting, being most reasonable, and tacitly accepted by the Inhabitants "for whose advantage and good" it was framed, has all the force of an express covenant, and every thing essential to the solid establishment of a law. It is absurd to say that the Vestry were not legislators, and that, therefore, no enactment of theirs could be binding. Their legislative competence must be measured by the objects to which it is applied, and the quality of the provisions which it enjoins. They had a right to restrain their own powers, to prescribe a system of check and controul for their own administration, and to declare that the lay members should annually resign their offices, and be succeeded by others to be chosen by the Ministers and Inhabitants. These engagements they contracted in the most public and solemn manner; and the first infringement of them, no matter when it occurred, and every successive one, was as manifest a usurpation as ever was practised. Does this Charter invade the rights of any man or body of men? Does it encroach on the province of any superior authority? Is it consistent with any law then existing or since promulgated? No! Did it come in the shape of a Petition from the Inhabitants to the Vestry to which the latter never gave a sufficiently authenticated assent? Were the magic words *Le Vestry le vent* never muttered over it? No!—It came in the form of a Grant from the Vestry, and therefore must be strictly construed against the grantors.

But JUNIUS and CORIOLANUS (an odd brotherhood) do not ask what is the nature of the provisions of the Charter; they look exclusively to the rank and stations of the individuals who decreed it, and finding these beneath some certain standard in their own minds, they strenuously resist the imposition of the rights and privileges which the Vestry would confer on them. Such things are as alien and abhorrent to their dispositions as they were to the Cappadocians of old, who were so inveterately in love with their chains that it was impossible to emancipate them. Any charter having so beneficent an object necessarily remained null and void, from the incapacity of the recipient to be a freeman. Let JUNIUS and CORIOLANUS but see a Supreme power to enact, and they will acknowledge the validity of its enactments, though they should tend, not to the security but to the subversion of the most sacred rights of humanity. In all this they agree with Hobbes, but I will oppose to them an authority greater than Hobbes. "It would be hard," says Burke, "to point out any error more truly subversive of all the order and beauty, of all the peace and happiness of human society, than the position, that any body of men have a right to make what laws they please; or that laws can derive any authority from their institution merely, and independent of the quality of the subject matter." CORIOLANUS will scarcely think it worth his while to put the often repeated question in this quarrel, "Is that the law?" He will say he "neither knows nor cares." Ignorance and indifference, however, though very ordinary concomitants of authority resting on power alone, are poor qualifications for one who covers three folio pages with his endeavours "to expose inconsistency and elicit truth."

Indeed CORIOLANUS thinks there must be something erroneous or dangerous, whenever the words *rights* or *franchises* are mentioned; and by way of improvement, he says that the Inhabitants are indignant because they cannot get "possession of certain abstract rights which neither the Vestry nor the Government can bestow upon them." The great teacher whom I have already quoted maintains that "the rights of men, that is to say, the natural rights of mankind, are indeed sacred things; and if any public measure is proved mischievously to affect them, the objection ought to be fatal to that measure, even if no charter at all could be set up against it." To appoint our own trustees, to require our own stewards to give an account of their stewardship, are indeed abstract rights; but to appoint trustees in the matter, and under the circumstances which are now the subject of contest; to require the Vestry to render accounts in terms of the Constitution of 1787; these, I apprehend are rights in the concrete, and not in the abstract. As well may CORIOLANUS say that a Lord Mayor in his fur gown and gold chain is the abstract idea of a Lord Mayor; or that the Vestry funds are mere *entes rationis*, some *tertium quid* or *quinta essentia* of sicca vapours. As to franchise, he says it "means a royal privilege or branch of the royal prerogative," and consequently, as he wishes to be inferred, that it cannot appertain to a subject, or that the privileges of a subject cannot be properly described under that specification. This is the opinion of CORIOLANUS, but BLACKSTONE (who knew and cared something about those matters) thinks otherwise. He tells us that the King has his franchises and the subject has his, and that on a trial to determine the right to a particular franchise, "in case of judgment for the defendant, he shall have an allowance of his franchise; but in case of judgment for the King, for that the party is entitled to no such franchise, or hath disused or abused it, the franchise is either seized into the King's hands, to be granted out again to whomsoever he shall please, or, if it be not such a franchise as may subsist in the hands of the crown, there is merely judgment of ouster, to turn out the party who usurped it." Not only, therefore, may subjects have their franchises, but there are some which the King may not, that is, cannot have. Is not the elective franchise as frequent in our mouths as household words?

If CORIOLANUS wishes to know more particularly what are the rights of Englishmen in respect to the matter under discussion, I refer him to Sir W. Jones' admirable Dialogue, between a Gentleman and a Farmer.

When JUNIUS and CORIOLANUS contend, that Lord Cornwallis sat in the first, or Constituent Vestry of June 1787—in his private capacity, they

will grant me, that he was not there *in reg.* that he was there corporally present, and that the Vestry had not merely an abstract idea of the Noble Marquis to comfort themselves withal. But this unofficial presence (together with the publication of the proceedings in the Government Gazette) was surely a sufficient guarantee to the Inhabitants, that there was nothing in the Charter then promulgated that contravened the rights of any party, and that Government gave it whatever sanction their approbation and acquiescence could confer. If Lord Cornwallis had seen any thing objectionable in the proceedings of that day, we need not doubt that he would have resumed his *thunder* to correct it. So Frederick the Great used to allow his boon companions to treat him as a private individual, but whenever they overstepped the ill-defined limits in the fervour of their conviviality, the unofficial Frederick checked their career with *Messieurs! Paix! Paix! Voilà le Roi qui vient!*

The JUNIUSES and CORIOLANUSES profess unbounded respect for the very name of Government, but then it is for a government of which the functionaries are physically existing. They show themselves not a little independent of the Government of 1787. With respect to it they can speak out most valiantly and without any prejudice to their discretion. They can stand up stoutly against the "poor ghost" of Cornwallis, and tell it that when that great and good man was a true Governor General, and not a counterfeit as he is now, he practised a cheat on the Public, by being a party to the grant of a Charter filled indeed with well-sounding words, but signifying nothing; or that, if he acted with good faith in this transaction, he must have been a downright fool, since his Charter is null and void, and stuffed with nonsense, permitting the Inhabitants to elect certain impossible fractions of the lay Members of the Vestry. Your living Governor General

"Is generous, valiant, just, and wise,
"And so continues till he dies;
"But once you fix him in a tomb,
"His virtues fade, his vices bloom;
"And each perfection, wrong imputed,
"Is fully at his death confuted."

CORIOLANUS says that "Government has laid down no rule for ascertaining the qualification necessary to entitle an inhabitant to vote. How then are we to ascertain it?" &c. "Till some constitution of suffrage be framed, I cannot see how ANY man can come forward and say, 'I have a right to vote for a church-warden!'" Now is not CORIOLANUS a clever fellow, and a sound logician? There is no qualification required—no limitation—therefore, says he, every man is excluded! We do not say that there ought not to be a well-defined qualification. On the contrary such an amendment is highly desirable.

Equally clever is the harping of JUNIUS and CORIOLANUS on the word *adopted*: The vestry adopted the clauses of the Act containing the Constitution of 1787; they adopted the whole Act, and promulgated it: whereupon the learned Gentlemen object that the clauses were *only adopted*, not *enacted*! Equally profound and ingenious is their denial of the ability of a body of men to constitute themselves a Society for the purpose of contributing and expending their own money in deeds of charity.

II. The Usurpers and their friends say that they hold their places in obedience to Government! Has Government by its fiat cancelled the Charter? It did not interpose in favour of the expelled Sidesmen; but if the Usurpers had been the plaintiffs, would it have interposed in their favour? The language of Mr. Lushington's letters is incompatible with such a conclusion, Government did not choose to interfere authoritatively, as between the majority and minority of the Vestry. But the case is widely different, when the inhabitants of Calcutta petition Government to lend the weight of its authority to the most simple, reasonable, obvious, and indispensable arrangement that it is possible to suggest. In the month of January, the evidence was so partial and incomplete that by the avowal of one of the majority of the Vestry, Government gave a *mistaken* judgment in their favour. Now the evidence is complete; and with respect to the competence of Government, it is surely not less than that of Lord Cornwallis; it is surely equal to the granting of the prayer of so moderate a Petition, *volenti non fit injuria*. Let a law come from England, with *quantum suff.* of "wax and green ferret," by all means; but in the mean time let *Astrea* reign, let common sense not be adjured.

We know that in the opinion of Mr. FERGUSON and Mr. COMPTON, the two grounds on which the Usurpers rest their defence are wholly untenable. They say: "The conduct of the parties who have prevented Messrs. Plowden from acting as Sidesmen in pursuance of their election will not, we apprehend, be sanctioned by the Court, if they have any jurisdiction over the question." They entertain no doubt as to the merits of the question; the only doubt is respecting the jurisdiction of the Court.

CORIOLANUS lays considerable stress on the non-attendance of Mr. FORBES and Mr. TRANT at the Committee. That these Gentlemen were in the minority at the Town Hall, on the 22d of September, is notorious to all the world. What need was there, then, to placard their non-attendance at the Committee? Such a proceeding is unusual. It was a compliment to these Gentlemen to vote them into the Committee, and they might have attended, were it only as *viri graves et fortes* to overawe its turbulence. Instead of leaving it to be vexed by the tempest of its own passion, they might have calmed its agitations, by pouring out the vials of their own soft and sober wisdom. But what shall we say to the fair dealing of CORIOLANUS who has garbled the Protest of Mr. TRANT by omitting the few concluding and very material words!

I hear that attempts are making to slacken the long and strong pull which the Inhabitants are making, by assurances from ocular witnesses that the Vestry Accounts are kept with the utmost regularity, and in the strictest forms of Italian book-keeping. Can it be necessary to remind any person that this question never did, nor can, rest on the chances of private character and self-responsibility? Are the Directors of the Bank of Bengal honest men? "O! Yes, they are all honorable men!" Shall they therefore be permitted to audit their own accounts, and to nominate themselves to be their own successors?

To conclude. This is one of the plainest, and at the same time one of the most important questions that has hitherto interested this rising community. The triumph of the good cause is certain; and as to the time when the award will be given, we may say, *Bis dat qui cito dat.*

Calcutta, October 11, 1819.

GRACCHUS.

Payment of Prize Money.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

As you have always expressed a warm interest for the Army, I am tempted to trouble you with a sad grievance, that has for some time past, been preying on our very vitals, in this part of the country, if not in others. I allude to the hopes which we have been led to form, (and their subsequent disappointment) on the subject of Prize Money for the last campaign.

Before I go further, Sir, allow me to observe, that being "One of The New-School," I have not the smallest wish, myself, to receive a farthing. (I should rather say a pice) on this account; and propose, should my creditors permit (for alas! Sir, I am a Subaltern) to appropriate my share to the purchase, some years hence, of a "Brevet by Merit."

But, let this pass. What I have to complain of, is not the non-payment of the prize money, (God forbid that our Honorable Masters should be hurried,) but, the state of suspense, doubt, and uncertainty into which we have been precipitated, by the arrival, not long ago, of large, *Rights of Powers of Attorney*, (the same alone, Sir, has worse effects, than the Cholera) issued forth from divers Houses of Agency, in Calcutta, and darting with irresistible fury, on the devoted heads, of many an unfortunate Sub. or Capt. even (Proh Pudor!) who with true liberality of sentiment and disdain of low economy, may have permitted their expences to exceed their incomes.

The Circulars, that accompanied these said Powers, stated generally, that the Prize Money, it was expected, would be paid, ere' long, in Calcutta, and that if poor Pillgarlick would only put his signature to the Power, they (the Transmitters) would generously save him the trouble of receiving, what, (agreeable to the idea of some *Friends of the Army*) is one of the chief rewards that he looks to, for his toils and his dangers.

Now, Sir, is this not too bad? I leave our cause in your hands, and doubt not, that you will easily succeed in drawing forth, from their abodes of Cimmerian darkness, such of these Powers of Attorney as may have been signed, and there deposited. Offer them up, I pray you, a Sacrifice to Mars, and let it not be told in Gath, or Askalon, that Soldiers should be called on to devote their Prize Money to the payment of vulgar debts! Some few of "The Old School," (who mean to degrade themselves so far as to accept the Prize Money, when they can get it) have desired me to hint, that it would be a very acceptable Christmas Box, this year, if Government should not be afraid of damping the energies, and destroying the emulative spirit of the Army, by bestowing it.

With the greatest contempt for so sordid an idea as is conveyed in this hint.

I remain, Sir, Your's

Upper Provinces, Sept. 28, 1819.

BOBADIL.

Military Law of England.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

In reply to the Query which appeared in your Journal of the 14th instant, I should conclude, that as the true spirit of Military Law clearly allows the Privilege of Challenging to Prisoners brought for Trial before General Courts Martial, there can be no legal grounds for refusing the same Privilege to Prisoners arraigned before the minor Military Courts.

In a work entitled *The Military Law of England*, under the head, Regimental Court Martial, is the following remark:—"The Prisoner however having no objection to the Officers by whom he is to be tried, and in the ordinary course pleaded Not Guilty, the Court proceeds to the examination of Evidence."

I know not how far the above extract can be considered as authority for maintaining the Right of a Prisoner to Challenge any member of a Regimental or other inferior Court, before which he may be brought for Trial; but as it is the only remark I have ever met with at all alluding to the subject of the present Inquiry, I submit it for the consideration of your Military Readers.

Your Obedient Servant,

Sumna, above Culpee, Sept. 23, 1819.

P—

A Criterion Suggested.

Who shall decide when Doctors disagree?

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

I have the misfortune to be what is called by the blue-cuffed tribe "A FAO," a military term for one who takes all the drudgery of rear guards, battery duty, working parties, committees, and commands; and having been relieved from the latter duty in the Mofussil by a brother-fag, I have had, on my return to the Head Quarters of my Corps, the gratification to peruse various Letters on the most important point which has hitherto ever been agitated, so far as touches the welfare of the Army. I mean "Whether meritorious Officers should receive their deserts, by having an advance of rank bestowed on them by Brevet, or whether they should be rewarded by Staff-appointments."

The Letters above alluded to, are signed "A FRIEND TO THE ARMY," "W"—"A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE," "ONE OF THE NEW SCHOOL," "ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL," "OLD TIMES" &c.—Although, Mr. Editor, I have not the least doubt, but all of the above Correspondents have good reasons on their side, in support of the strenuousness with which they urge and advocate their respective opinions; those arguing in behalf of the Brevet, being perhaps men of interest; those for rewards by appointments, men of none, and who have only "Fortuna belli" to look to for advancement; yet I imagine, in conformity with an established saying, "those who benefit or suffer can judge best;" and as this agitated point cannot receive more genuine argument than the impartial opinions of the gallant and meritorious Officers who so ably fill the undermentioned appointments, and who have had, I believe, their respective rewards bestowed on account of their pre-eminent merit, if they will favor the Army through the medium of your Journal with a communication whether they would relinquish their present situations for an advanced step by Brevet, or not, I should think "A FRIEND TO THE ARMY" and the rest of the writers on his side would be satisfied, conceiving the argued point determined by the most competent judges.

(We have omitted the Offices here named.)

The above Offices are held by men high in repute, who will of course feel the importance of their decision: I myself candidly confess that any one of the above highly respectable appointments would determine my vote against Brevet, even were I obliged (in order to fill the last-stated to the wish of my employer, and to secure myself snugly in it) to wear red plush breeches or even to be clad in vestments vying in colours with the rainbow.

I am, Sir,

A BATTALION SUBALTERN OF 16 YEARS HARD FAGO.

Postscript.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

Sir,

Among the Queries suggested in your Journal of the 11th of August last, there is one, given in a Postscript to the Letter of X. Y. couched in the following terms:—

"Can any of your Correspondents explain the cause of common fire going out when exposed to the rays of the sun? or explain the cause of the action of a poker laid over a slow fire to make it burn?"

On the several Queries preceding this, in the same Letter of X. Y.—I have offered my opinions in the Letter headed Natural Phenomena, dated August 30th, inserted in the Journal of the 3rd instant, but the Postscript I had intended for it, being omitted to be forwarded at the same time, I send it now, as follows:—

I am sorry I cannot give you a satisfactory explanation of the "fire going out" at the presence of the *presiding luminary* of the day, because I never could satisfy myself regarding the rationale of this, when a comfortable fireside was an object of much greater interest and importance to me, than it is now.

"Placing the Poker over the Fire," I imagine, is a mere mechanical act of Cooks and Scullion boys at home, who may mistake this implement for its colleague the Shovel. The beneficial service of the letter, which I dare say most of us have experienced in a cold frosty morning, may be accounted for, in this manner. The air, which feeds the fire, in place of being diffused throughout, is now confined, in its direction, to a small point by which alone it finds an outlet. A draught is immediately formed to the spot, and the increased quality of *aerial pabulum* thus supplied in rapid succession, stirs up the languid combustion, and quickly sets the whole in a blaze; and true it is too that the close, narrow, and lengthened chimney of the Smelter, and the Glassblower, inflames their tardy combustible, and enables them to conquer the most refractory materials.

Deccan, August 30, 1819.

G. &

Military

BOMBAY GENERAL ORDERS.

General Orders, by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Bombay Castle, September 10, 1819.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the following Corps and Detachments be held in readiness for embarkation on foreign service, viz.

One Company of European Artillery, and Lascars, complete.

His Majesty's 47th Regiment.

His Majesty's 65th Regiment.

First Battalion 2d Regiment Native Infantry.

First Battalion 3d Regiment Native Infantry.

The Flank Companies of the 2d Battalion 4th Regiment, and of the 1st or Marine Battalion 11th Regiment, to be completed to 100 rank and file each.

One Company of Pioneers.

The Commanding Officer of the Forces will be pleased to issue the necessary orders for bringing the Flank Companies of the 2d, 4th and of the Marine Battalion to the Presidency; and also the Head Quarters and sick of the 1st Battalion 3d Regiment from Poonlee, leaving a small detail at that place, until the arrival of the Corps intended for its relief.

The several Corps and Detachments now at Bombay are to be immediately relieved from Garrison duty, and formed into a separate force, to be joined by the Flank Companies, and the 1st and 3d on their arrival at the Presidency.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to confer the Command of this force on Major General Sir William Grant Keir, K. M. T.

The following Officers are appointed to the staff under the Major General's orders:—

Major E. G. Stannus, Assistant Adjutant General.

Captain D. Wilson, Assistant Quarter Master General.

Captain G. F. Sadler, His Majesty's 47th Regiment, at present employed on a special duty in the Persian Gulf, to be Interpreter.

Captain Edmund Hardy, of the Battalion of Artillery, Commissary of Ordnance stores.

Captain Edward Frederick, Assistant Commissary General.

Lieutenant William Henderson, of the European Regiment, Paymaster.

The following further appointments are made consequent to the above arrangement:—

Captain Charles Whitehill, to officiate as Assistant Adjutant General to the Guicowar Subsidiary Force, and Captain T. G. Stewart, as Assistant Quarter Master General in Candish, during the absence of Major Stannus and Captain D. Wilson, from their respective stations.

The Sub-Assistant Commissary General will take charge of the Commissariat duties in the Northern Division of Guzerat, during Captain Frederick's absence.

Lieutenant Colonel M. Kennedy is placed at the disposal of the Commanding Officer of the forces, without prejudice to his command of the Southern Division of Guzerat; the duties of which will in the mean time be conducted by the senior Officer in the Division.

Bombay Castle, September 14, 1819.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint Lieutenant P. D. Ottey, of the 2d Battalion 6th Regiment Native Infantry, to the situation of Quarter Master and Interpreter in the Hindoostanee language to that Battalion, vice Blackall, promoted to a Company.—Date of Appointment, 1st September, 1819.

Bombay Castle, September 15, 1819.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint Mr. Surgeon Jukes to be Superintending Surgeon, and Mr. Assistant Surgeon Macneil to be Deputy Medical Store-keeper, with the force assembled for foreign Service under the Command of Major General Sir William Grant Keir.

Assistant Surgeon Bell, who stands appointed to the Residency of Bagdad, is directed to accompany the Expedition to the Persian Gulf, under such orders as he may receive from the Commanding officer of the forces, and on the termination of that service will proceed to join his station without returning to the Presidency.

Assistant Surgeon Dow who stands appointed to the Residency at Bushire, is directed to proceed to join his station by the earliest opportunity.

Lieut. Remon, the executive Engineer at Kairab, and Lieut. Price, the executive Engineer at Baroda, are relieved from their present duties, and placed at the disposal of the Commanding Officer of the Forces, in order to accompany the Expedition.

The Office of executive Engineer in the Concan becoming vacant by the return to Europe of Ensign Waddington, Ensign T. B. Jervis is appointed to that situation.

The Governor in Council is pleased to permit Lieut. Col. Milnes, of His Majesty's 65th Regiment, to resign his command of the troops in Cutch, in order to accompany his Regiment proceeding on foreign service.

Bombay Castle, September 16, 1819.

The Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council is pleased to accept Surgeon Eckford's resignation of the situation of Garrison Surgeon at the Presidency.

By Order of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council,

J. FARISH, Sec. to Govt.

SYDNEY GENERAL ORDERS.

Government House, Sydney, May 31, 1819.

CIVIL DEPARTMENT.

His Excellency the Governor, having received and perused the Journal of a Tour lately made by Charles Throsby, Esq. by the way of the Cow Pastures to Bathurst, in the new discovered country westward to the Blue Mountains, takes this early opportunity publicly to announce the happy result of an enterprise, which promises to conduce in a very eminent degree to the future interest and prosperity of the colony.

The communication with the western country having been heretofore over a long and difficult range of mountains, alike ungenial to man and cattle, from their parched and barren state, it became an object of great importance to discover another route, whereby those almost insurmountable barriers would be avoided, and a more practicable and consequently less hazardous access effected to the rich and extensive plains of Bathurst; and with this purpose Mr. Throsby obtained his Excellency's permission to explore those parts of the country which seemed to him likely to possess the desired facilities of intercourse; and undertook this expedition, notwithstanding the privations, difficulties and dangers to which he was exposed in traversing wastes and forests, hitherto unexplored. On the 25th of April last, he commenced his arduous tour, passing through the Cow Pastures, accompanied by Mr. John Rowley and two servants, together with two natives, as guides, and brought it to a happy termination on the 9th of May, by his arrival at the hut of Lieutenant Lawson, on the Campbell river, within a short distance of Bathurst; the whole time occupied in this expedition being 15 days.

The necessity which Mr. Throsby appears to have been under of accelerating his progress through the country he was exploring, did not allow him to dwell minutely in his Journal on the various productions or properties of the soil he traversed. His Excellency therefore adverts with pleasure to his general report of the capabilities, qualities, and features of the country intervening between the Cow Pastures and Bathurst, which he represents to be, with few exceptions, rich, fertile, and luxuriant, abounding with fine runs of water, and all the varieties of soil, hill, and valley, to render it not only delightful to the view, but highly suitable to all the purposes of pasturage and agriculture.

The importance of these discoveries is enhanced by the consideration, that a continuous range of valuable country, extending from the Cow Pastures to the remote plains of Bathurst, is now fully ascertained, connecting those couraries with the present settlements on this side the Nepean.

His Excellency the Governor highly appreciating Mr. Throsby's services on this occasion, offers him this public tribute of acknowledgment, for the zeal and perseverance, by which he was actuated throughout that arduous undertaking; and desires his acceptance of one thousand acres of land in any part of the country discovered by himself, that he may choose to select.

The Governor also, in acknowledgment of Mr. John Rowley's services on this occasion, will assign him two hundred acres of land in the same country; and to Joseph Wild and John Wait, servants to Mr. Throsby, who accompanied him in the expedition, and whose fidelity and exertions are particularly noticed and commended by Mr. Throsby, His Excellency will assign one hundred acres of land each.

The services tendered by the two native guides, Coochoogong and Dual, and to which much of the success of the undertaking may be ascribed, being very meritorious, his Excellency will order a remuneration to be made to them in clothes and bedding; and will further appoint Coochoogong chief of the Burrah-Burrah tribe, to which he belongs, and over which he appears to have considerable influence, together with the usual badge of distinction. And on Dual his Excellency will confer the badge of merit, as a reward due to these natives for their respective exertions and services.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. T. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

Civil Appointments.

MADRAS.

Mr. H. Chamier, Senior Deputy Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Mr. E. Unthoff, Junior ditto ditto.

Mr. H. Mortlock, Deputy Persian Translation to Government.

Mr. W. Hudleston, Junior Deputy Register to the Court of Sudder and Foujdary Adawlut.

Mr. J. F. Thomas, Head Assistant to the Register to the Court of ditto ditto.

Administration to Estates.

John Cuthbertson, late Commander of the Bengal ship Liverpool—George Cuthbertson, of Calcutta, Mariner.

John Steers, of Calcutta—Michael Meyers and Thomas Barefoot, Executors.]

John Bun, jun.—William Brodie, Esq.

Captain Henry Blankenhagen, late of the European Regiment—Dempster Heming, Esq.

Assistant Surgeon Richard Rowland Yeomans, late of Moorshedabad—Dempster Heming, Esq.

Assistant Surgeon David Hastie, late of Seharanpore—Dempster Heming, Esq.

Major John Moodie, late of Madras—David Clarke, Esq. of Calcutta, of the firm of Fergusson Clarke, and Co.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward William Butler, late of Agra—Harriet Butler, the widow.

Arthur Jacob Macan, Esq. late of Calcutta—James Young, Esq. of the firm of Alexander and Co.

Domestic Occurrences,

MARRIAGES.

On the 11th instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. Mr. Corrie, Mr. John Crámer, to Miss Catherine Petruce.

On the same day, Sergeant John Dempsey, of His Majesty's 21st Light Dragoons, to Mrs. Margaret Sharp.

At Patna, on the 9th instant, Mr. Julien Bollard, jun. to Miss Antoinette Boyard.

BIRTHS.

On the 11th instant, the Lady of Captain Beaton, Assistant Adjutant General, of a Son.

At Sattara, on the 11th ultimo, the Lady of Lieut. J. H. Taylor, 2d Battalion, P. A. Brigade, of a Daughter.

At Bombay, on the 11th ultimo, the Lady of Dr. Barnes, Archdeacon, of a Son.

At Meerut, on the 16th ultimo, the Lady of Captain W. P. Cooke, Deputy Advocate General, 2d and 3d Division Field Army, of a Son.

At Allahabad, on the 21st ultimo, the Lady of Captain W. McQuhae, of a Daughter.

At Berhampore, on the 23d ultimo, the Lady of Captain Henry E. Pitman, of His Majesty's 59th Foot, of a Son.

At Cawnpore, on the 24th ultimo, the Lady of Captain J. Ferris, Ordnance Commissariat, of a Son.

At Anjar, on the 3th of August, the Lady of Captain Charles Payne, 25th Regt. N. I. of a Daughter.

At the Cape, on the 10th of July, the Lady of Rev. Thomas Erskine, A. M. Colonial Chaplain at Simon's Town, of a Son.

DEATHS.

On the 4th instant, Master William Hunt, aged 18 years.

On the 9th instant, Captain Henry Sartorius, of the Country Service, aged 45 years.

At Allipore, on the 10th instant, Miss Elizabeth Boesalt, aged 17 years and 10 months.

On the 11th instant, Mr. Gaspar Rodrigues, late of Rungpore.

At Chinsurah, on the 26th ultimo, Joanna Christina, relict of the late Captain George Holroyd Alley, 20th Regiment of Native Infantry, and Daughter of the late Johannes Plucker, Esq. M. D. of the same place.

At Berhampore, on the 3d instant, Captain Mandeville, of H. M. 59th Foot, who had but lately arrived with the Detachment from Calcutta.

At the same place, on the 26th ultimo, Mrs. Mollis, the wife of Mr. James Mollis, aged 19 years.

At Moorsheadabad, on the 29th ultimo, R. R. Yeomans, Esq. Civil Assistant Surgeon.

At Dinapore, on the 26th ultimo, the Lady of Captain James Auriol, of the Honorable Company's European Regiment.

At Broach, on the 29th ultimo, Lieutenant Fireworker Henry Lowry Osborne, of the Artillery, Dept. Com. of Stores.

At Almorah, on the 14th ultimo, Edward Portbury, the infant son of Captain Gladwin, of the 15th Native Infantry.

At Tanah, on the 13th ultimo, a few minutes after its birth, the infant Daughter of Mr. Francis Horne.

At Madras, on the 4th ultimo, of an attack of the liver, Lieut. George Mowbray Smith, of the 5th Regiment Light Cavalry, aged 28 years.

At the same place, on the 10th ultimo, Mary Anne, the eldest Daughter of Mr. John Jeremiah.

At the same place, on the 5th ultimo, Mrs. Charlotte Eliza Reilly, relict of the late Captain Reilly.

At the same place, on the 13th ultimo, Captain Robert Simpson, of the 16th Regiment of Native Infantry.

At Cochin, on the 28th of August, the Lady of Captain J. D. Stewart, Master Attendant, aged 34 years, 6 months and 23 days.

At Bombay, on the 14th ultimo, Mr. Henry Datten, Clerk in the Auditor General's Office.

On the 26th of August, on board the William Miles, at the age of 16 years, and 3 months, Mary Anne, the eldest Daughter of Charles Bayley, Esq. of the Bengal Civil Service.

At the Cape, on the 24th of July, Mr. Alexander Gray, aged 26 years.

At the same place, on the 25th of July, a son of Captain George Herbert, named Frederick George, aged 6 months and 5 days.

At Sea, on the 31st of May, on board the Sarah, on her passage to the Cape, Lieut. Richard Norton, R. N.

In Scotland.—At Kennel, in the County of Forfar, the Revd. Mr. Alexander Chaplin, Minister of the Parish of Kennel, in the 95th year of his age, and 65th of his Ministry.

At the same place, on the 6th of March, the Lady of Robert Downie, Esq. of Appin, after being delivered of a still-born Child.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

(None)

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Oct. 19	Guide	British	J. Higgins	Port Jackson

Passengers.

Passengers per Fame, from England.

Mr. Claude Queiroz, Mrs. Mary Queiroz, Mrs. Harriet Bryant and son, Miss Mary Cameron, Miss Eliza Padwick, Miss Marianne Allen, Captain J. R. De Beauregarde, 2d Regiment of Native Infantry, Captain William Harmaworth, Free Mariner, Messrs. Edward Francis Rowcroft, Hubert Garbett, and Joseph Charles Sage, Cadets. Forty H. C. Recruits, three women, and one child.

Passengers per Mary Ann, from Madras.

Mr. H. J. Blane, Mrs. Fleming, Rev. Mr. Fleming, Missionary.

Passengers per Norfolk, from Madras.

Captain R. Leigh, Country Service, Lieut. Crossdale, 1st Regiment 10th Native Infantry.

Passenger per Argo, from Padang.

Miss E. Maidman.

Passengers per Helen, from Point de Galle.

H. Forbes, Esq. Messrs. J. Mack and Henderson, Assistant Surgeons, Captain H. Heady, from Bombay.

Passengers per Lynx, from Port Jackson.

Mrs. Siddins, Mrs. Scholey, Martin Kerns.

Passengers per Lusitania, from the Cape of Good Hope.

Mrs. Batson, Mr. Batson, Mr. Chambers.

From the London Shipping and Commercial List of 22d May.

The Rose, Regis, arrived at Marseilles from the Mauritius, sailed 30th January, and on the 27th March, in lat. 8° 11' N long. 24° 8' was boarded by a privateer, under Portuguese colours, which plundered her of some sugar, coffee, and other articles.

From the London Post Office Packet List of 24th May.

The following ships are advertised to carry Letters for—
Calcutta, Medway, Wigur, from London, to sail about 1st June.
Madras and Calcutta, Mary, Browne, do. do.
New South Wales, Regana, Dixon, do. do.
New South Wales, David Shaw, Jordan, do. do.
Batavia and Penang, Juliana, Ogilvie, do. do.

Nautical Notice.

His Majesty's ship Daphne, proceeded from Madras on the 25th of September, to join the Admiral at Trincomalee.

It is also reported that His Excellency the Naval Commander in Chief will shortly proceed to Bombay for the purpose of superintending the fitting out the new Frigate.

On the 24th of Sept. anchored in Madras roads, the ship Bengal Merchant, Captain A. Brown, from Calcutta, left 11th, and the Pilot 22d of August.

The ship Eliza, Captain Woodward, arrived at Madras on the 22d of Sept. from Bombay and Pondicherry.

Extract from the report of the American brig Wanderer, Captain H. B. Sampson, from Boston 14th March, and Havre 3d June.

On the 20th of July, lat. 13° 41' S. long. 36° 40' W. spoke the American ship Eliza, from Gibraltar, for Sumatra.

On the 6th of October, off Point Palmiras, spoke the French ship Franklin from Bordeaux, via Mauritius, for Calcutta.

On the 5th of May, the Neveyda, Spanish brig of war, of 18 guns and 142 men, from Cadiz to Rio Janeiro, was taken in lat. 9° S. long. 34° W. by the Irresistible, Patriot brig of 14 guns, after an action of 14 minutes, and was carried into Margatita 16th March. The Neveyda had 13 men killed and 22 wounded; and the Irresistible, although she suffered much in spars, rigging, and sails, it is stated, had only one man wounded.

On the 18th of May, the Eagle arrived at Baltimore from Rio, was boarded 16th March, lat. 10° 4' S. long. 24° W. by the Fortuna, under the Patriot flag; was informed by the boarding officers, that three days before they had captured a large Portuguese ship, with a valuable cargo; on the next day fell in with a Portuguese M. W. brig of 20 guns, which they also captured after a short action—have her guns over, took out what they wanted, put the people of the ship on board, and set her at liberty.

Considerable anxiety prevailed among the merchants for the safety of the Queen Charlotte packet. She sailed from Jamaica on the 29th of March, and had an immense quantity of specie on board. No tidings have since been received of her. Several vessels have called since her departure, and have arrived safe. The Ocean quitted Jamaica on the 6th of April, and arrived here several days since. There was no frigate or King's ship lying at Jamaica, which was the reason of her taking charge of the specie.

The ships last from China, says an English Paper, came home in a very sickly condition. Some of them have lost from 40 to 50 hands.